

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 18 of the specification with the following:

Now, an organic electroluminescence display used as a display of various electronic equipments has been promptly developed, and already put into practice in a certain field, such as a display for a cellular phone. Such an organic electroluminescence display of such a kind is formed by laminating a plurality of layers such as an electrode layer (anode and cathode), an electron transition layer, a positive hole transition layer and a luminescence layer on a substrate, each of these layers being made of polymeric or monomeric organic compounds. On the other hand, it has been known that the organic electroluminescence display is easily deteriorated by moisture. That is, in the organic electroluminescence display, the luminescence layer and the electrode layer are separated from each other by the existence of moisture or the molecular structure of the luminescence layer changes due to moisture to result in a display defect called [[as] a dark spot.

Please replace the following paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17 of the specification with the following:

The nonwoven fabric according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention serves as a hygroscopic member for absorbing and retaining moisture, since a hygroscopic agent is adhered to at least part of fibers. Also, since ~~[[a]]~~ size, ~~[[a]]~~ thickness or ~~others~~ other aspects of the nonwoven fabric itself may be easily and freely selected, the nonwoven fabric can be used as a hygroscopic member that is excellent in general versatility, productivity and handleability.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 of the specification with the following:

Also, the hygroscopic member of the present invention preferably includes the above-mentioned nonwoven fabric having a fiber layer made of fibers bonding to each other and a hygroscopic agent adhered to one surface of the fiber layer, and an air-permeable sheet covering the entirety of the nonwoven fabric.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 2 of the specification with the following:

A preferred method for producing the nonwoven fabric according to the present invention includes the steps of: supplying raw material of fibers to a first centrifugal separator; ejecting the fibers from the first centrifugal separator by a centrifugal force; and supplying a hygroscopic agent onto the fibers ejected from the first centrifugal separator so that the hygroscopic agent adheres to at least part of the fibers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 24 of the specification with the following:

An apparatus for producing a nonwoven fabric according to the present invention preferably includes a raw material supplying for supplying raw material of fibers, a first centrifugal separator receiving the raw material from the raw material supplying means and ejecting the fibers by a centrifugal force, a hygroscopic agent supplying means in the first centrifugal separator for supplying a hygroscopic agent onto the ejected fibers, and a belt mechanism driven to circulate below the first centrifugal separator.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 7 of the specification with the following:

An organic electroluminescence display according to the present invention preferably includes a substrate, a plurality of organic compound layers formed on the substrate, and a hygroscopic member for absorbing and retaining moisture, the hygroscopic member including a nonwoven fabric made of fibers bonding to each other and a hygroscopic agent adhering to part of the fibers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 4 of the specification with the following:

Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a nonwoven fabric 5 according to a first embodiment of the present invention. The nonwoven fabric 1 of Fig. 1 is capable of serving as a hygroscopic member. Since [[a] size, [[a]] thickness or the like of the nonwoven fabric 1 can be easily and freely selected, the nonwoven fabric 1 can be used as a hygroscopic member having an extremely high general versatility, productivity and handleability. As shown in Fig. 1, a preferred embodiment of the nonwoven fabric 1 of the present invention has a double-layered structure including a first layer 11 and a second layer 12. The first layer 11 is formed of a nonwoven fabric made of fibers to which fine particles of hygroscopic agent S adheres. The second layer 12 is laminated (bonded) to the first layer 11 and is formed of a nonwoven fabric made of fibers to which no

hygroscopic agent S adheres. Even if hygroscopic agent S is separated from the fibers of the first layer 11, the separated hygroscopic agent S could be caught by the second layer 12 so that the hygroscopic capacity of the nonwoven fabric 1 is well maintained for a long period.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 25 of the specification with the following:

The hygroscopic agent S adhering to fibers of the first layer 11 of the nonwoven fabric 1 ~~[[is]]~~ may be produced by a so-called sol-gel method. As shown in Fig. 2, a substance X having a high moisture-retaining performance, such as calcium or calcium carbonate, is wrapped with a layer Y of porous particles of, for example, silicon dioxide. In the present invention, however, the hygroscopic agent S is not limited to that shown in Fig. 2, in which the substance X is completely wrapped with the silicon dioxide layer Y. That is, as shown in Fig. 3, the hygroscopic agent S may be one in which an outer surface of the substance X having a high hygroscopic capacity is adhered with a large amount of porous particles y of silicon dioxide. Preferably, the substance X such as calcium, calcium oxide or calcium carbonate has a particle size in a range from approximately 140 to 160 μ m, and the silicon dioxide

particle adhering to the surface of the substance X has a particle size in a range from approximately 5 to 10 μ m.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 5 of the specification with the following:

The hygroscopic agent S included in the nonwoven fabric 1 preferably is produced by the following process. That is, a solution is prepared by adding alcohol to alcoxysilane group such as tetramethoxysilane (TMOS) in a dry nitrogen gas environment, and proper amount water and a catalyst such as ammonium for accelerating the hydrolytic reaction and condensation reaction is added thereto and agitated. As a result, the reaction in accordance with the sol-gel method represented by the formulae (1) to (3) proceeds to produce wet gel.